

METHODISM DISPLAYED

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AND

ENTHUSIASM DETECTED;

INTENDED AS AN

ANTIDOTE against, and a PRESERVATIVE from
the delusive Principles and unscriptural Doctrines
of a Modern Set of SEDUCING PREACHERS:

AND

As a Defence of our Regular and Orthodox CLERGY,
from their Unjust Reflections.

Addressed to the Ministers of BETHESDA-CHapel,
and all who frequent it.

Hold fast the Form of sound Words. 2 Tim. i. 13.

*Be no more tossed to and fro, and carried about with every
Wind of Doctrine, by the Slight of Men, and cunning Craf-
tiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive. Eph. iv. 14.*

*Believe not every Spirit—Many false Prophets are gone out
into the world. 1 John iv. 1.*

D U B L I N :

Printed, and Sold at HENRY WHITESTONE,
No. 29, Capel-street.

MDCCLXXXVI.

[Price 6d h]

I T being presumed, this short Address is calculated to preserve the Well-Meaning and Unwary from being misled and deluded; therefore such of the Bishops and Clergy, as are inclined to give them away, may have them at thirty Shillings per Hundred.

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METHODISM DISPLAYED,

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ENTHUSIASM DETECTED, &c.

CHRISTIANITY is a pure, perfect, rational, consistent System; it is a Revelation worthy the God of Truth and Wisdom to dispense; its Doctrines have a direct Tendency to moralize the Powers and Faculties, and to ennoble and dignify the human Nature; it sets its true Professors free from ridiculous Absurdities, and enthusiastic Delusions; for, its divine Author taught no Doctrines, enjoined no Precepts, but such as will bear the strictest Scrutiny, and must be owned, by every truly wise and judicious Person, to be well adapted and nicely calculated, at once to display the Power and Mercy of God, as well as to enrich, console and make happy the Mind of every true Christian.

But how an Institution, thus wisely designed, ordered and established, should be so greatly mistaken, so unhappily perverted, and so grossly misrepresented, is no less surprising than true; and therefore how much to be deplored and lamented! But why is this? How must we account for the many delusive Tenets and destructive Errors, which are industriously propagated by a Set of *modern Teachers*, and readily embraced by so many Professors of Christianity? How? Why, as the Papists mistakingly assert Ignorance to be the Mother of Devotion, we may truly say, Ignorance is the Parent of Error, Folly and Delusion.

But to what kind of Ignorance may we ascribe the Mistakes of the Teachers, and the Folly of the People in being thus deceived? Doubtless, to an Ignorance of the Word of God,

God, the holy Scriptures, which are the only sure Guide, the best Standard, and the most certain Criterion, whereby to discern Truth from Falshood, Right from Wrong; but, through Neglect of searching those sacred Pages, the poor People easily become a Prey to every ignorant *enthusiastic Preacher* that comes in their Way: hence we see such a plentiful Production of Novel Doctrines, and such an abundant Fruitfulness of extravagant Follies, and destructive Errors, which are so prevalent among us at this Day.

Men, Brethren, and Fathers, see ye not what an Inundation of Error and Delusion hath broken in upon us? Observe you not the Overflowings of Immorality and Vice, which, like a Torrent, is overspreading our Land? Can you be unconcerned, when the dreadful Effects and baneful Consequences are so visible and evident? Alas! *Virtue* reclines her fainting Head! *Morality* is almost banished, but in Name! The golden Rule of doing to others as we would be done by, is neglected and disregarded! How few advert to the plain Requisition of the Prophet, *To do Justly, love Mercy, and walk humbly before the Lord?* Surely, it is too plain to be denied; the true Principles of the Gospel are forsaken! *Christianity* has lost its powerful Influence upon its Professors; and, therefore, the Practice of *Morality* and *Good Works* is so much neglected, and so little attended to. O ye Ministers, ye professed Teachers and Instructors of Mankind, will not ye attempt to stem the rapid Torrent, which threatens to carry all before it? There is no Way left, but to retreat to the primitive Doctrines of the Gospel, the established Principles of the Reformation. These, these constantly insisted on, and powerfully inculcated, will, nay, these only can be attended with the happy Effects of reclaiming the People from Error, rectifying their Principles, and effectually producing Christian Practices. As for you, my Brethren, Brethren-Professors of the same Gospel, let me intreat and conjure you, if you would be true *Protestants* against the Fallacy and Deceit of the Church of *Rome*, as you would desire to be Proof against all Doctrines of Novelty, all erroneous Principles, all dangerous and delusive Tenets; would you perceive and detect, and so beware of deceiving Teachers, *false Prophets*, hypocritical and pretended Ministers; in one Word, are ye solicitous to come to the *Knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus*, that so ye may be saved? *search*
the

the Scriptures; make this your constant Practice; for, be assured, ye are in the utmost Danger of being misled and deceived; and never more so than at present: On the one Hand, by the proud, self-presuming, god-resisting *Infidel*; on the other, by the credulous, unscriptural, unmeaning *Enthusiast*. While the former is an open Enemy to the Doctrines of the Gospel, totally rejects every Article of the Christian Faith; acts as far wide from the moralizing Precepts of the Gospel as from Humility; the latter, (the *Enthusiast*,) deceives himself and others by his mere Pretences to *Inspiration*; professes to have received the Gifts of the Spirit, but gives no Evidence to ascertain the Truth of it; makes solemn Declarations of being *inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost* to preach to you, and only pretends to pray to God for spiritual Operations, Influences, and Impressions; but, after all, 'tis plain to the Eye of discerning Reason, he means nothing but to make Gain of his Pretensions to Godliness: for, contrary to his most solemn Pretensions and Professions, he utterly denies any true, real, inward Motion, Operation, and Influence of the Spirit: And hence doth he bewilder, amuse, and perplex the Ignorant and Unwary, by teaching unsound, unscriptural Doctrine.

Take Heed to yourselves. Beware of false Prophets—of such pretended Teachers; for you are liable to be led by such into a Maze of Anti-christian Errors, and a Wilderness of unscriptural Perplexities; so that your Danger, through their Means, may not easily be escaped, nor ever rectified. It is not a trifling Affair I am now addressing you about; but it is, my Brethren, of the utmost Concern, and of the greatest Importance: no less than your Souls are at Stake; nothing less than an Eternity of happiness depends upon your being *wise unto Salvation*. For your Sakes, and in Regard to your Safety, suffer me here to introduce some of the truly scriptural, orthodox Articles of the Established Church of *England*, which, as they are a Kind of Epitome, or Abridgment of the Gospel, I shall select such of them as may best serve our present Purpose; namely, to try and examine Doctrines and Teachers by, to detect Error, and discover Truth. By these let us determine our Assent to, or Dissent from such Doctrines as are

are proposed to us, and I am verily persuaded, we shall escape Error, avoid Delusion, and be freed from Mistakes.

Perhaps, a fond Attachment to our excellent Established Church (of which I am a Member) may influence me rather to fix on this *Form of sound Words*, than any other of human Composition: be it so; I am (I think) herein justified, forasmuch as these Articles are supported by, and built upon the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, I am unconcerned what our Modern Teachers and new-pretended Divines think or say of me; if they dislike, and are ashamed of our Articles, I am not: For, all our Christian Bishops, (God bless them!) and all our Church-Parsons, (Lord have Mercy on them!) they all own them, and subscribe to them, ay and swear to them too; and they are publicly printed in our Common Prayer Books: For what Use think ye? but that we should read them, know them, be instructed in them, and always abide by them. God grant, Brethren, that we may! For, if we are happily interested in the great Truths they contain, vain will be all the artful attempts, subtle Designs, and nefarious Stratagems of Men, destitute of the Truth, to mislead, pervert, or delude us:

To this End, I shall now lay the Articles before you, make some strictures upon them, and draw some Applications from them, as I go along; God give us a right Judgment! We begin with the Doctrine of Original or Birth-Sin, Article IX.

“Original Sin standeth not in the following of Adam; (as the Pelagians do vainly talk) but it is the Fault and Corruption of the Nature of every Man that naturally is gendered of the Off-spring of Adam, whereby Man is very far gone from Original Righteousness, and is of his own Nature inclined to Evil.”

This the Pelagians of old denied, and this the modern Pelagians, who pretend to great Knowledge, while ignorant of themselves, and Strangers to the Corruption and Depravity of their own Hearts, disown. Though, at the same Time, they are standing Monuments of the Truth of this Doctrine; and, whether they believe or confess it or not, their outward Actions plainly evince the inherent Power of original

Original Sin; their not seeing, not knowing, and not feeling it, is only one of the strongest Proofs of their being under original Blindness and Insensibility. And yet, such as these, truly, set up for Guides and Teachers of others. Know them, Brethren: Discern them you may, you ought; and for your Soul's sake, avoid such. Attend not to their sweet Syren-Songs, lest you are thereby lulled asleep, upon the Waves of Destruction. Take these Marks with you. Yourself, Brethren, judge of their Doctrines by them: For, our Articles plainly declare the miserable State and Condition of Man, of every Man that is born into this World; First, in the Loss of original Righteousness, or the Image of God; and Secondly, as possessed with a contrary Image; therefore is of his own Nature inclined to Evil. Here behold the true Picture of the so much boasted Dignity of human Nature! Thus is Man painted out by our Article; thus is Man described by the Oracles of Truth; and to this melancholy Account doth every true Christian readily subscribe, and every carnal, natural Man's Actions fully demonstrate it. "Ay, but, (say our *new Doctors, and modern Teachers,*) this is too dark a Shade, "too sable a Dress, too degrading of the human Nature;" and, therefore, they tickle the Ears, please the Pride, and flatter the Vanity of the human Mind, with their *unedifying Fargon, unscriptural Harangues, and false Encomiums* on the Moral Rectitude, Virtue, and Dignity of Man. But, Brethren, would ye avoid an unskilful *Quack* in Surgery, who, instead of searching and probing a Wound, in order to procure the Soundness and Health of the Body, should slightly heal and skin over the Parts aggrieved, while Putrefaction and Rottenness is at the Bottom, whereby the Life of the Patient is destroyed? So these *Quacks* in Divinity are much more to be dreaded; inasmuch as the Life of the Soul is of infinitely more Value than that of the Body. I have heard our true, staunch, *Church Ministers*, distinguish such Flatterers of human Nature by the Appellations of *sleek Divines, downy Doctors, and velvet-mouthed Preachers*. Pretty and significant truly! and the Apostle describes such, saying, *They serve not the Lord Jesus, but their own Bellies, and by good Words and fair Speeches they deceive the Hearts of the Simple*; for, as they don't preach agreeable to the Articles, so neither do they choose

choose Scripture Language, nor Apostolic Diction, in their Compositions. For, our Article next declares,

“ Therefore, in every Person born into the World, it
“ (Original Sin) deserves *God's Wrath and Damnation*.”

What a strange Phrase is here ! *God's Wrath and Damnation* ! “ Ah, (say our *new-fangled Teachers*;) we are not
“ so uncharitable, to suppose any Person in the World de-
“ serving of God's Wrath and Damnation. What an
“ unpolite, uncouth Set of Men were the Compilers of
“ these Articles !”

Say you so ? Pray let me observe, that, however unfashionable this Doctrine may be thought by some, however obsolete and harsh the Expressions may seem to others of our airy fashionable Preachers, Truth it is ; it is the Doctrine of Scripture ; and those venerable Compilers *spoke as the Oracles of God*. And is it not better, far better, for the Sinner to be made sensible of his Danger and to hear that he deserves *God's Wrath and Damnation*, so as to escape it *now*, by flying to *Jesus*, the only Refuge for Sinners, than to be blinded by flattering Deceivers, till he falls a Sacrifice to *God's Wrath and Damnation*, in a dreadful Eternity hereafter ? This you must assent to ; this you will not deny.

But, our Article farther declares, “ This Infection of
“ Nature doth remain in them that are regenerated.” Regenerated, how ? By Infant-Baptism only ? No, the Regenerate do not rest on the outward and visible Sign, but are made Partakers of the inward and spiritual Grace *also*. By the quickening and purifying Operations of the Holy Spirit, a Principle of spiritual Life is implanted in them (and, take this by the Way, without experiencing this, Infant-Baptism will not, cannot profit any Person to Salvation :) So that such, and such only, are sensible of the different *Lustings of the Flesh, and of the Spirit* ; and, though *there is no Condemnation to them that believe with that Faith which is of the Operation of God, and are baptized with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost*, “ Yet Concupiscence and Lust,
“ saith the Article (that is inward Desires and Lustings)
“ hath the Nature of Sin ;” and therefore against them every child of God strives and fights, till he obtains the Victory.

But

But, alas! in these Days of Modification and Refinement, if the outward Actions are only somewhat decent, moral, and regular, no Thought or Concern is taken about inward Depravity and Heart-Wickedness. But, what amazing Horror, what trembling Dread will seize on such, when a Heart-searching God shall discover, before Angels and Men, the vileness, hypocrisy, and Deceitfulness of the Heart, and, to the speechless Condemnation of all miserable *Deceivers* and Soul Deceivers, they shall be forced to own (when too late to be rectified) that their *inward Parts were very Wickedness*, and therefore they stood in Need of being *renewed in the Spirit of their Minds*, as well as their outward Actions to be reformed and moralized.

And, as the former Article shews the Wretchedness and Sinfulness of our Estate by Nature, the next Article (10) asserts the Helplessness and Insufficiency of our Condition.

“ The Condition of Man, since the Fall of *Adam*, is
 “ such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself by his
 “ own natural Strength and good Works, to Faith and
 “ calling upon God: Wherefore, we have no Power to
 “ do good Works, pleasant and acceptable to God, with-
 “ out the Grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we
 “ may have a good Will, and working with us, when we
 “ have that good Will.”

Deceivers will come, saith the Scripture; we believe it, saith our Church, and, therefore, we establish Articles at once to settle the judgment of our Members, and to guard them from erroneous Novelty. And are not these Deceivers already come? Is not their Name *Legion*? Do not false Teachers swarm among us, who tell us, (without ever mentioning the preventing and co-operating grace of God,) that Man has Free-will and Power to turn and prepare himself, and to do good Works, by which he is to recommend himself to the Favour of God? Are not these the favourite Doctrines of this Day? Don't we constantly hear such unscriptural, antichristian Tenets daily advanced, both from the *Pulpit* and the *Press*?

Ask that reverend Gentleman in BLACK, " Sir, *What must I do to be saved?*" And you will find his Answer as novel and as modish as the Fashion of his dress. He's too polite to dictate the old Scriptural Answer, *Believe on the Lord Jesus*. But, " practice Morality, and do good Works, and you are safe." Was you to reply, in the Words of the Article of our Church, " Sir, I have *no Power to do good Works, pleasant and acceptable to God without the Grace of God by Christ*"—" Psha, psha, psha, thee don't tire and teaze me with your Methodistical Rant, and Enthusiastical Nonsense," would be the Reply. Man's Power, natural Ability, and unassisted Free-will are his favourite Themes, instead of Free-grace, supernatural Power, divine and spiritual Assistance. Lord, have Mercy on the Sheep that are under the Care of such a Shepherd! Now, whatever Honour and Respect is due to the Ministers of Christ, how much so ever we are to *esteem such highly in Love for their Work's sake*, yet our Saviour points out to us, and cautions us against *blind Guides, and false Teachers. To the Law and to the Testimony*, then; and if Ministers *speak not according to the sacred Oracles of Truth*, we may fairly conclude *they have no light in them*. Therefore it is our greatest Wisdom to reject their Doctrines as unscriptural and erroneous.

But, Brethren, let me plainly and briefly apply myself to every one of you on the two foregoing Articles. Do you know yourself? Are you sensible of your real Estate? Are you made acquainted with your true Condition? Do you know and feel your Misery and Want, as a Sinner? Are you sensible of your own Weakness and Insufficiency to turn and prepare yourself? Do you see your Inclination and Proneness to all Evil and Sin, and your Aversion and Disaffection to all Holiness and Godliness? If you do not, have not thus seen yourself stripped of all Good, and full of all Evil, *deserving God's Wrath and Damnation*, it is plain you are blind even unto this Day; and, farther, you never prayed in all your Life. Nay, don't start; 'tis plain Truth: You cannot, you dare not deny it before God, and your own Conscience. For, Prayer is a breathing out the Desires of the Soul before God, under a Sense of Distress, and the want of Mercy, and an humble Dependance on God for Relief and Redress. But, how could you pray to be delivered from Sin, Evil and Danger, when you never saw it, never felt it, and was

was never sensible of it, and, consequently, could have no Desire to be delivered from it?

But you say, "Surely, I have gone to Church, and prayed"—That you have gone to Church, and repeated the solemn Words of our excellent Liturgy, is not denied; but even then and there you *offered the Sacrifice of Fools*, and solemnly mocked God, while you pretended to address and worship him. Else, how could you dare to tell God you were a *miserable Sinner*, desire him to *have Mercy upon you*; tell him *there was no Health in you*; that you were *tied and bound with the Chain of your Sins*; and that the *Remembrance of your Sins was grievous unto you, and the Burden of them intolerable*, while you neither felt nor experienced such a State? Surely, the most dreadful Hypocrisy this! The most fatal and dangerous Delusion possible!

But if not only your Head is enlightened, and your Judgment informed, but your Heart also truly convicted, and humbled before the Lord, with a View of yourself, as described by our Scripture Articles; blessed Knowledge! Happy Sensibility! For this you are indebted to the Divine Grace, and heavenly Teachings of the *Holy Spirit*, of whom you learn to "cast away all human Confidence, " all Dependence on the Arm of Flesh only, and to fly to " Christ for Help and Succour—with a *Lord save, or I perish*: for, the Heart of Man, by Nature, is estranged " and alienated from God and Christ, would try every other " Means, and seek for Salvation in any Way, rather than " accept it as a *free Gift* from Christ. To cast away all " Self-Righteousness is grievous to the Heart, in its natural State of Pride, and Affectation of Independency. " Man would still be as God, still work out and merit " for himself his own Salvation: And he must be driven " to the last Extremity, see the Insufficiency of Law and " SELF, of *Morality and Works*, before he can cast away " all other Confidence, and apply to Jesus with a *Lord save, or I perish*. It is Faith alone which can avail the " Soul, and thus we must apply, if we would obtain the " Gift of God in Christ; utterly renouncing all Self-Dependence, and perfectly assured, that he is able and

"willing to save to the uttermost.*" Yea, God, for Christ's sake, will enrich your Souls, and comfort your Spirits with the abundant Consolations administered in the 11th Article, which runs thus :

"We (all true Believers) are accounted righteous before God, only for the Merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by Faith, and not for our own Works and Deservings: Wherefore that we are justified BY FAITH ONLY, is a most wholesome Doctrine, and very full of Comfort, as is more largely expressed in the Homily of Justification."

Here is true Protestant, Anti-romish Doctrine! Blessed are the Ministers of our Church, that know and preach thus! Happy every Soul that can set to his Seal to the Truth of these Words! God will suffer *no Flesh to glory in his Presence*: Therefore, in the Justification, Pardon, or Acceptance of a Sinner, he will magnify the Riches of his free Grace. To be justified freely, through the Redemption that is in Jesus Christ, and to be accounted righteous, for the Righteousness of Jesus Christ only, is the only Doctrine that can yield Comfort and Consolation to penitent humble Sinners, and Glory and Praise to the God of all Mercy and Grace. "No, (say our modern Theologists,) it is by
our

* These truly scriptural and experimental Sentences I have taken the Liberty to extract from the writings of a truly Reverend and learned Divine of our Church. Do not these savour of Methodism too? Are not these also tinged with the Spirit of Euthusiasm? The World is of this Opinion; they do say so: But what then? We know the faithful Ministers of Christ do not seek to please Men, but God. They will neither court the Smiles, nor fear the Frowns of the Men of this World; neither will they be so afraid of the Faces of Men, as to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; inasmuch as they, by happy Experience, know it is the Power of God to the Salvation of their own Souls: Therefore all such as know the Truth as it is in Jesus, will not shamefully retreat from, deny, or give it up, but boldly preach it; yea, they will not shun to declare the whole Counsel of God; yea, for so doing, the World is pleased to honour them so far as to fix, what they think is the most opprobrious Name upon them, even that of a METHODIST.

“ our own good Works we are to procure the Favour, and
 “ recommend our Persons to the Acceptance of *God*: and
 “ wherein we come short, *Jesus Christ*, by his merits, will
 “ make up the deficiency.” Be astonished, O Heavens! be
 amazed, O ye Sons of *God*! be confounded, O ye Enemies
 of true Righteousness! at the Blindness, Vanity, and Pride
 of relying on, or joining the imperfect Works and sullied
 Obedience of fallen Man with the perfect Righteousness, all-
 atoning Merits, and all-sufficient Sacrifice of the infinitely
 divine and holy *Jesus*! O how long will ye thus *pervert the*
right Ways of the Lord! How long will ye trample on the
 precious Blood, depreciate the only availing Righteousness,
 and set at nought the all-prevailing Merits of the Sinner’s
 Friend, the dear and loving *Jesus*! Be filled, O my Soul,
 be warmed, O my Friends, with a holy Indignation at the
 daring Insult and impious Affronts that are offered to *Jesus*,
 your *Saviour* and your *God*, whose Blood and Righteous-
 ness is your only Plea!

“ We don’t preach Justification by *Faith only*,” say the
Papists: “ We are agreed with you,” say their Confederates
 in Error, our pretended *Protestant*, but seducing Preachers.
 But why? “ Because it tends to destroy good Works,” say
both. “ It is false,” says our Church; “ we experience the
 contrary,” say all its true Christian Members. But, truly,
 the *Popish* Teachers are honest, upright Men, when compar-
 ed with these modern Deceivers: For, it is the avowed
 Tenet of their Church, to deny and explode the Doctrine
 of Justification by Faith only; but our pretended *Protestant*
 Teachers, assent to it, in the Articles of our Church, as a
most wholesome Doctrine, and very full of godly Comfort; and
 yet, afterwards, publicly preach and inveigh against it, and
 brand and stigmatize the Contenders for this Scripture-Truth
 as a Set of Madmen, Enthusiasts, and Deceivers. Pretty
 this, truly! Surprising is such a share of Assurance! Ama-
 zing such Want of Modesty! Is this a Specimen of your
 good Works, *Reverend Gentlemen*? Alas! alas! where is
 common Honesty, candid Judgment, and impartial Deter-
 mination fled? O ye self-confident, soul-deceiving Teachers,
 how can ye look on this Article, without being filled with
 Shame and Confusion of Face? If Conscience performed its
 Office, blush ye must, ye would, at such monstrous Beha-
 viour, and inconsistent Practice.

But

But, does our Church depreciate good Works, or deny their Usefulness? No; neither do any of its true Ministers or Members; they all assent to the Doctrines of the 12th Article, that

“ Good Works are the Fruits of Faith, and follow after
 “ Justification (not go before, in order to procure Justifica-
 “ tion) and though they cannot put away our Sins, nor en-
 “ dure the Severity of God’s Judgment, yet are they pleas-
 “ ing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out
 “ necessarily of a true Faith, inasmuch as by them a lively
 “ Faith may be as evidently known as a Tree by its Fruit.”

What a Consistency of Doctrine! What a Harmony of divine Truth! What a Chain of Scripture Tenets do our excellent Articles afford us! Thank God for antient, orthodox, Christian Compilers. From modern, heterodox, unchristian Teachers, *good Lord deliver us!* and let all our Church-Members say, *Amen.*

You see, Brethren, that *good Works are the Fruits of Faith.* Have you received of God the Gift of Faith? Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, whereby you are justified? Is the Condemnation and Guilt of your Sins taken away? And do you possess Pardon and Peace from God? Then, I am sure, you must love God, and Love is the most powerful and availing Principle to produce good Works, *pleasant and acceptable to God in Christ*; for only in Christ Jesus is it our Works are accepted; the best Work we can perform *can’t put away our Sins, and endure the severity of God’s Judgment*: But *good Works spring out necessarily of a true Faith*, they are true Marks and Evidences of a lively Faith, as the Fruitfulness of a Tree is an unanswerable Proof of the Life and Soundness of the Root. Hence we see, by the plain Sense of the Articles, that, without a true justifying Faith in our Lord Jesus, no good Works can be produced; and yet, truly, we find many, who pretend to be the only true orthodox Teachers of our Church, constantly exploding and vehemently denying the Doctrine of *Justification by Faith only.* Therefore, it is a plain Consequence and natural Deduction, that the only Marks such give of their *Orthodoxy* is, that they have neither *Faith* nor *good Works*, notwithstanding all that

that prating and noise they make about *good Works*. And this is more fully proved by Article XIII. which assures us,

All “ Works done before the Grace of Christ, and the
 “ Inspiration of his Spirit, are not pleasant to God, foras-
 “ much as they spring not of Faith in Jesus Christ; neither
 “ do they make Men meet to receive Grace, or (as the
 “ School-Authors say) deserve Grace of Congruity: Rather
 “ for that they are not done as God hath willed and com-
 “ manded them to be done, we doubt not but they have the
 “ Nature of Sin.”

The Grace of Christ, and the Inspiration of the Spirit!
 Why, this is the very Mark and Characteristic of an *Enthusiast*, to talk of being inspired, say our *new Lights*, and *modern Deceivers*. But know, it is the only Principle of true Christian Knowledge and Practices; for, *the Things of God knoweth no Man, but by the Spirit of God*; and, *if any Man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his*; these are scriptural Determinations. He is not a Christian who is not inspired by the Spirit of God, neither are any *Works pleasant and acceptable to God*, but what spring from Inspiration, says our Church. *Inspiration* signifies a Breathing inward: What? Why, the Vitality, Power, and Graces of the Holy Spirit; and from this inward Principle only, outward Actions, good and pleasant to God, and profitable to Man, flow.

To avoid Prolixity, I shall not enlarge; but, really, our excellent Articles afford such a Field of Argument to support the Truth, and detect Error, that they are pleasing and delightful Themes to dwell on, though I doubt not but what I have advanced is sufficient, in the Judgment of the ignorant and prejudiced Professors of Christianity, to determine me a *Methodist*, and *Enthusiast*. Reader, let me appeal to thee: Have I strained one Sentence of our Articles from its natural Sense, and plain Meaning? Well, if, for a steady Adherence and firm Attachment to the Doctrines of the Church of *England*, I am accounted a *Methodist*, I am content; may I live and die a *Church of England Methodist*. I mean not, hereby, any Sect or Party. No, I am attached to none. It is the Scripture Doctrines of our Church I am contending

contending for; which, whoever does, is sure to have the Appellation of a *Methodist*.

But, let me expostulate a little on this Head with our pretended Churchmen. You say, you profess the Religion of the Church of *England*. I do the same: so far we agree. I believe the Doctrines of her Articles, which are essential to Salvation, to be truly Scriptural; therefore I own them, abide by, and contend for them. Do you do the same? I fear not. Herein do we not differ? Let us see: we will bring the Matter to a short Issue: a few Words will determine the Point. I believe, that *Man is very far gone from original Righteousness, and is of his own Nature inclined to Evil. That original Sin, in every Person born into this World, deserves GOD'S WRATH AND DAMNATION. That every Man by Nature is in this State, without Power to turn and prepare himself, to do good Works acceptable to God.* I believe, that it is only for the Merits of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*, that any Person is accounted righteous before God. That our own Works and Deservings have no Hand at all in procuring God's Favour, no causal Influence upon a Sinner's Justification in the Sight of God; but that we are justified, pardoned and accounted righteous through Faith only, as apprehending and applying the Merits of the blood and righteousness of *Jesus the Saviour*. I believe, Good Works to be the Fruits of Faith, that they are the Effects, not the Cause of Justification: that our Persons are justified before our Works can be accepted: And that till a Person is justified by Faith, actually possessed of the Grace of Christ, and really inspired by the Holy Spirit, he doth not, he cannot please God! I believe, the Inspiration of the Holy Ghost as necessary to spiritual Life, as Breath is to natural Life: for as the Body is dead without Breath, so whoever is not inspired by the Spirit of Christ, is dead to God, and the things of God: and lastly, I believe, that whoever is born of the Spirit will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, and serve God in righteousness and true holiness, all the days of his life.

Now, this is my Religion: this is the Religion of the Bible; the *Christian* Religion; the *Protestant* Faith; the Religion of the Church of *England*: Is it yours? No, you say, This is all Madness, Cant and Enthusiasm. Very well—Now you are at Liberty to chuse your System of Religion;

gion; but pretend no longer to be a Member of the Church of *England*; you have no Right. For, please to remember, you give up, you deny, you explode her essential Doctrines. Talk no more of being a Christian; for the very Quintessence of Christianity, the plain Truths of the Bible, you are pleased to treat with Contempt and Ridicule. The happy Privileges which Christ hath purchased for, and doth enrich all true Christians with, you are pleased to look on only as religious Madness, Folly and Delusion. And yet, how amazingly inconsistent do you act? What a Scene of Absurdity and Contradiction is your Practice? You go to Church, you join the Congregation, and, in the Words of our Church Prayers, you ask and beseech God to bestow those very spiritual Blessings upon you, which you only esteem as the Flights of Frenzy, the Whims of a distempered Brain, and fit only for the Portion of Madmen and Fools. Alas, Sir, where is that sober Reason and cool Argument you pretend to? Where that Candour of Judgment and just Determination you talk of? Let who will be deceived, you are wrong; even your Profession and Practice give full Evidence against you, and by them you are condemned.

Now what avails all your pretending to and contending for the *Church*, the *Church*, and calling yourself a Member thereof, when you mean nothing by it? Why do you boast of your steady Conformity to the Church of *England*? Do you value yourself because you have not left your own Parish Church, changed your Religion, and turned *Methodist*? Poor deluded Professor! Not changed your Religion, you say! Alas, you have your Religion still to seek: you only profess you know not what: you have only *a Name to live while you are dead*, dead to God, and to the Things that make for your eternal Peace: yea, you are as much a Stranger to true Christianity as you are to sound Reason. I wish you calmly to consider these Things. May the Lord, in Mercy to your precious Soul, open your Eyes to see, that you have hitherto assumed a Name which in no wise belongs to you, and rested in the meer Shadow and Profession of Christianity only, while you, to this Day, remain utterly ignorant of the Truths of the Gospel in your Understanding, and destitute of the Experience of any saving Influences of them upon your Heart. Miserable State! Unhappy Delusion! And yet, for you to treat with Sneer and Contempt, such Per-

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sons

sons who act a far wiser, and a more consistent Part than yourself, is most strange and absurd, indeed!

But not so doth my Friend *Philalethes* act; he is blessed with sound Reason, and a solid Judgment; he uses them properly, and he acts consistently: though he is favoured with the Affluence of Fortune, yet it doth not set him above a due Concern for his Soul, nor divert him from the most earnest Attention to the *One Thing Needful*. *Philalethes* is a CHRISTIAN, one who has not only the *Form of Godliness*, but knows and experiences the *Power* of the Gospel in his own Soul. 'Tis but a few Years since the Spirit of God opened his Eyes to discern *the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*, and made him acquainted with his Bible, and his own Heart; he has weighed the Doctrines of our Church in the Balance of the Sanctuary, and compared them with the sacred Scriptures; therefore he owns and abides by them; and farther, by happy Experience, and Heartfelt Knowledge, he finds and feels the Privileges and Comforts, Efficacy and Power of them upon his Soul. *Philalethes* has seen his miserable State, and lost Condition as a *Sinner*, and has been made to tremble as an *Unbeliever* before God; he has felt the Force of these Words upon his Mind, *He that believeth not, is condemned ALREADY, and the Wrath of God ABIDETH on him*. Alarmed and sensibly affected herewith, he fled for Refuge to Jesus. He besought the Lord to *reveal Christ in him, the Hope of Glory*.^{*} He cried, and the Lord answered him to the Joy of his Heart. He now experiences an Interest in *the Redemption which is in Christ Jesus*; and, by Faith he knows, that *Jesus is made*
unto

* *A spiritual Revelation of Christ to the Heart is here meant, such as our Saviour speaks of Matt. xi. 27. when he assures us, No Man knoweth the Father, save the Son, and he to whom the Son will REVEAL him. This St. Paul happily experienced when he testifies, it pleased God to REVEAL his Son in me. Those who account this Enthusiasm, would do well to consider, that it is the Enthusiasm of Scripture, taught by the beloved Son of God, experienced by the blessed Apostle of God, and which all the Saints of God, all true Christians, in all Ages, have been so enthusiastically happy as to be favoured with.*

unto him of God, *Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption*. He now feels *the Peace of God*, which flows from a Sense of Pardon, and Justification. He enjoys the happy Privilege of the Gospel-Covenant; even *the Spirit itself bears Witness with his Spirit, that he is a Child of God, and an Heir of Glory*. He lives holy and happy, ever ready to do Good unto all Men, affable and courteous in his Behaviour to every one; so that none can say aught against his moral Conduct and Behaviour.

Such is *Philaethes*; shall I say, universally admired and respected, revered and esteemed by all his Friends and Acquaintance? Should we not be ready to conclude so? But no, this is not the Case; quite the reverse. His former Companions say, they pity him, they are concerned for him, for, they look on him as one seized with religious Frenzy; his Head a little touched, his Brain turned, and he is in their Eyes an ENTHUSIAST; though they will still allow he is a worthy Man, a valuable Friend, and, in all other Respects, he is very well; but as to Religion, There lies his Disorder, and in that he goes too far. Poor *Philaethes*!

But how does he bear the Sncer and Contempt, Scoff and Ridicule he meets with from the World? I lately took the Liberty to ask him. With an Air of Ease and Unconcern, he replied, "As to my Friends, the Men of this World, I pity them; they *know not the Things that belong unto their Peace*; and divine Teachings, which only can instruct them therein, so far from seeking, they despise; though the Word of Truth so plainly declares, *the Things of God knoweth no Man but by the Spirit of God*: and, therefore, they act only as natural Men, furnished only with natural Abilities and human Acquirements; for, it matters not how great their Attainments be in this Way, as God assures us, by the Pen of his Apostle, *The natural Man discerneth not the Things of the Spirit of God, they are FOOLISHNESS unto him, neither can he know them*; for this very Reason, *because they are spiritually discerned*. So that if Men can count the *Things of God Foolishness*, I do not wonder that they should esteem all such as profess a Knowledge of such Things, FOOLS and Madmen? Thus they behave, and thus they honour me with the true Badge and distinguishing Characteristic of a

CHRISTIAN. I (continued *Philaletes*) have been taught to know, and lived to experience, that *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer Persecution*. I am content; yea I rejoice, that I am *counted worthy* to be a despised Servant, and Follower of a despised Lord and Saviour. They said of Jesus, *He is mad; it is sufficient that the Disciple be as his Master*, accounted mad also. But I can assure the World, I am not *so* mad yet, as to give up the Doctrines of our Church, the Comforts of the Gospel, for Fear of a *Nick-Name*. No, I do not find so much Magic in a Name, to charm me from *Christ* and Heaven. Neither is Reproach so dreadful to me, as to terrify me into Hell. But (added *Philaletes*, with a Countenance that bespoke those Raptures of Joy and Delight which his Heart felt,) those Words of my dear Saviour fill my Soul with the highest Consolation, *Him that confesseth me before Men, will I also confess before my Father*. To be owned and confessed by *the King of Saints, the Lord of Life and Glory, the Judge of Quick and Dead*, and at a Time too when the eternal State of every Soul is suspended upon the Breath of his Determination, when those who have been ashamed of Christ, denied him, and his Words, are *calling for the Rocks and Mountains to fall on them*, to cover them from eternal and insupportable Wrath: I say, *then* to be owned with Approbation by God, before Angels, Men and Devils; surely this Thought is enough! and it often makes me ready to welcome Reproach, and triumph in Disgrace for *Christ*, and his Gospel's sake. And here I can't forbear, (continued *Philaletes*) introducing the striking View, and alarming Description, which *Solomon* gives us of the Difference of Judgment, which all such who now make a Mock of the Truths of God, and despise the Followers of the blessed Jesus, will be Instances of in *that* Day. * *Then shall the Righteous stand in great Boldness before the Face of such as have afflicted him, and made no Account of his Labours. When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible Fear, and they shall be amazed at the Strangeness of his Salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for; and they, repenting and groaning for Anguish of Spirit, shall say within themselves, This is HE whom we had in Times past in Derision, and a Proverb of Reproach. WE Fools accounted his Life Madness, and his End to be without Honour. How is HE numbered among the Children*

* *Wisdom of Solomon, chap. 5.*

Children of God, and his Lot is among the Saints! You see they have now changed their Notes; heretofore when they spoke of the Children of God, it was, *they Fools, and they Madmen.* But now, *W E Fools, W E repent and groan for Anguish of Spirit,* the very Thing they once despised the Saints for. But, alas! such is the Folly of being wise too late! dreadful Experience, now to their eternal Misery,) convinces them of the Truth of those Things which they esteemed once only as Vision and Fable.

“Would to God, my Friends, yea the very worst Enemy I have, would, for their own Sakes, lay these Things to Heart *now.* Then would they no longer fight against, and oppose the precious Truths of the Gospel, which the glorious Company of the Apostles taught, and the noble Army of Martyrs sealed with their Blood, which the Church still maintains, and which every true Christian is happy in the Experience of. But, *whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear,* as for me, (continued *Philaethes,*) animated by these Considerations, I am *in nothing terrified by my Adversaries;* yea, though they are pleased to brand me, even with the so much dreaded, formidable Name of a **METHODIST.**”

A Methodist! Why, really, 'tis a simple and inoffensive Name, and I don't see any Reason to be ashamed of it; for, I have often thought, and it's well worth Notice, that the World don't usually fix this appellation upon Persons of an openly wicked and scandalously sinful Life: Hence a gaming, pleasure-taking, Playhouse-frequenting Person, one who lives in Debauchery and Excess of Drinking, is sure to escape the Name of *Methodist.*

Nor has a Minister that Name given him, who, notwithstanding his solemn Declarations, Subscriptions and Oaths, to assent to and abide by the Articles of our Church, preaches contrary to them; denies the *Fall of Man, Original Sin,* contends for Justification by Works instead of Faith; is an Enemy to the Doctrine of imputed Righteousness; from whose Sermons you seldom or never hear the Name of *Jesus,* nor the Agency and Influence of the Holy Spirit, unless utterly to deny, inveigh against, and
explode

explode all *spiritual Inspiration* and *inward Feelings*; he will certainly escape the Imputation of *Methodism*.

So again, that decent regular CLERGYMAN, who, freed from the *irksome Care of Souls*, comfortably lolls in his Chariot; thinks 'tis Time for him to have done with the Labour and Fatigue of Praying and Preaching (for he is turned of Forty) therefore has *left off Trade*, is content with a bare single *Thousand Pounds per Annum* Church Preferment; he loves, wishes well to the Church, (not without Reason by the by) rails at your popular, Mob-driving Preachers, (as he terms them,) is sure they would not take half the Pains they do, if Views of *Money-getting* were not at the Bottom: He also, will stand very clear of being deemed a *Methodist*.

Now Reader, what dost thou think of all such? I appeal to thee, and every honest Mind, and unprejudiced Judgment, to determine whether a worse Name doth not properly belong to them?

Well, since it is plain that such Principles and Practices, as are contrary to the ignorant, formal, sinful, *Anti-christian* Ministers and Professors of the Age, and to abide by and contend for the orthodox Articles of our Church, is thought sufficient to constitute a Person a *Methodist*: Therefore, Reader, let me here present thee, with a just and plain Description of a true *Methodist*. "He is one
"whom God hath chosen in Christ out of Mankind, to
"deliver from Curse and Damnation, and to bring by
"Christ to everlasting Salvation; he is called according to
"God's Purpose, by his *Spirit* working in due Season;
"he, through Grace, obeys the Calling; he is justified
"freely; he is made a Son of God by Adoption; he
"FEELS in himself the working of the *Spirit of Christ*,*
mortifying

* "FEELS in himself the WORKINGS of the *Spirit of Christ*!"
Would any one believe there are such Words in the Articles of our Church, when such Pains have been, and now are frequently taken, from so many Pulpits, to prove that all inward Feelings, all *Pre-
sensions* to spiritual Operations, are the Effects of *Enthusiasm*, meer

“ mortifying the Works of the Flesh, and his earthly
 “ Members, and drawing up his Mind to high and heaven-
 “ ly things; he is made like the Image of Christ, walks
 “ religiously in *good Works*, and, at length, by God’s
 “ Mercy attains everlasting Felicity.”

O happy *Methodists*! Blessed Description! Those who choose to give a better are at their Liberty; for my Part, I am tenaciously fond of our Church Language, and therefore have transcribed the Words of the 17th Article, in order to form this blessed Character.

And here, Brethren, may we not observe, how highly dignified, how undesignedly honoured a’l the faithful, scriptural, orthodox Ministers and Members of our Church are, by Ministers and Persons of a contrary Character?

Tell me, ye blinded by Prejudice, ye heated with Resentment, ye pretended Ministers and Members of our Church, tell, prove to the World if ye can, wherein such Ministers in the Church, as ye are pleased to call *Methodists*, have departed from, or advanced any one Tenet, contrary to the orthodox Articles of our Church. If they have, look them in the Face, and, by the Judgment and Determination of the Scripture and Articles, correct and refute them.

But if not (and no such Charge has hitherto appeared) how mean, base, and despicable is it to attempt to load them with Odium, Contempt, and Infamy behind their Backs?

Madness, Cant, Folly and Delusion, &c. And yet what is most amazing, these very Persons have declared their Assent and Consent to these very Words, yea, have presented themselves for the Ministry, with the most solemn Declaration, of being INWARDLY MOVED by the Holy Ghost to take upon them that holy Function. Strange Effect of spiritual Blindness! Affecting Consequence of religious Madness! As such Persons are beyond the Reach of cool Argument and solid Reason; they are the real Objects of Pity and Compassion: May they be the Subjects of every pious and reasonable Christian’s Prayers!

Backs? Is it their Crime to be so unpölite as to make Conscience of their Oaths and Subscriptions, and to preach and abide by the excellent and Apostolic Doctrines of our Church? Is it for their Love to, and Zeal for the Salvation of precious and immortal Souls? Is it because *the Sheep know their Voice*, and follow them as true Shepherds, therefore do the *Hirelings* hate, contemn, and despise them? Weep, O my Soul, in secret before the Lord, on Account of that Opposition to the Gospel of Jesus, and Unkindness to his Ministers! Rejoice, O my Soul! Be thankful, O my Fellow-Sinners, to the great *Shepherd and Bishop of Souls*, in thus caring for, and sending forth these best Friends, truest Sons, and most faithful Ministers of our Church!

And blessed be the Name of the Lord, for enduing them with that Spirit of Boldness and Constancy, whereby they declare the whole Counsel of God, no Man making them afraid. I know and am persuaded all that love our Lord Jesus in Sincerity, will feel the same Warmth of Zeal and fervent Affection to all the true, faithful Ministers of Christ, and will (as I do from my Heart) honour, reverence, and esteem them highly in Love, for their Works sake.

It matters very little to hear the many envenomed mouths crying out *Enthusiasm*. Reader, take Knowledge of that Reverend Gentleman; he is Rector of St. ———'s Church, and lest the People should be drawn away from him, by hearing the Doctrines of the Church of England preached, he denies these true Ministers the Pulpit, and says they are *Enthusiasts*, because *his craft is in danger*; and the People, as ignorant as himself, join the Cry.

— An *Enthusiast*! What is that? Oh, it is the Cant Word of the Day for the many-headed Monster; the Bugbear of the Times, thrown out by those, who are influenced by the *Father of Lies*, whereby many weak and inconsiderate People, are deterred and affrighted from the Truths of Christianity, All the true Ministers of our Church are now called *Enthusiasts*. By this Name they stand distinguished from the lazy Drones and unedifying DIVINES. But, Reader, when thou hearest of a Minister, whom the World calls an *Enthusiast*, don't suffer this to prejudice thee
against

against him ; assure thyself he's worth attending to ; take my Advice, hear him for thyself. Advert to thy Bible, and attend to the Articles of our Church, and if thou hast any Relish for the Truths of the one, and the Doctrines of the other, I warrant thee, thou wilt not be disappointed.

“ Ah, (says a constant Church-goer,) I heard one of these Sort of Preachers at our Church lately, where he preached such a Sermon about Conversion, the New-Birth, Justification by Faith in *Jesus Christ*, Inspiration, and Sanctification of the Spirit, and a Heap of such Talk, of I know not what all ! ay, and he said downright, that all unconverted People were in a State of Damnation, and that nothing could save them from Hell, but believing on the Lord Jesus : a strange Fellow ! Truly, he set our Parish in an Uproar, for we are never used to such Sort of Doctrine ; no, not we. But, the next Sunday, our Parson preached a Sermon against all such Doctrines ; for, he is a bitter Enemy to all such Preachers, and their Principles ; and though he was no more than a quarter of an Hour in his Sermon, yet he paid them off about their Inspiration and Faith, &c. ay, and he made us all easy again too : Oh he is a brave Man ! He told us, *We were in no Danger of going to Hell, and that there was no fear of our being damned, for we were all very good Christians, if we paid every one their own, and did as we would be done by, and kept to our Church and Sacrament.* That's the Preacher for me.”

Surely, at this Day is that Word fulfilled, *The Prophets prophesy falsely, and the People love to have it so.* For, truly, Reader, the Preaching of too many who call themselves Ministers of our Church, is more like Heathenish Morality, than Scriptural Christianity ; therefore beware of all such.

But it is objected, “ That your *Methodists* are *Enthusiasts*, because they pretend to, and contend for the “ Inspiration of the Spirit.” A heavy Charge this indeed !

And is this what you mean by *Enthusiasm* ? Are all that pretend to be inspired by the Spirit *Enthusiasts* ? “ Yes, doubtless,” say our Modern Teachers, and unchristian Professors ! Why then, if so, is not every Mi-

minister of our Church an *Enthusiast*, or a Deceiver? For they all, at their Ordination, solemnly profess to be *inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost*, to take on them the holy Function; and also the Bishop pronounces on them, *Receive ye the Holy Ghost*. Hence, it is plain our Church pre-requires the Necessity of an inward Call and Inspiration of the Spirit to the Work of the Ministry; and, therefore, it is expected they must receive the powerful Influences and Operations of the *Holy Ghost*, as though without them they could not be true Ministers of the Gospel of *Jesus Christ*: And it has been before proved, from the plain Declarations of our Articles, that, without the Inspiration of the *Holy Spirit*, none can be a true Christian, or do any good Works.

But, if by an Enthusiast is meant a Deceiver, one that *fancies* himself, and *pretends* to be, what in Reality he is not: I declare to you, Reader, I do not know a worse Sort of Enthusiasm, nor a more dangerous Set of Enthusiasts and Deceivers (Deceivers both of themselves and others, let common Sense and right Reason determine the Point) than those Ministers who solemnly profess to be *inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost*, pretend to receive the Gift of the *Holy Spirit* at their Ordination, assent, subscribe, and swear to the Articles of our Church, in which the Necessity of Inspiration is so strongly insisted on; use the most excellent Form of our Church Liturgy; constantly pray to God for the Inspiration, Guidance, and Operations of the Holy Spirit: And yet, after all this, (O dreadful Hypocrisy before God! O amazing Soul-Delusion!) can jest, jeer at, and ridicule all spiritual Influences and inward Operations; despise and condemn the honest, faithful, spiritual Ministers of our Church. For what? Why, only because they preach consistent with the avowed Tenets of that Church they profess themselves Ministers of, and plainly declare such Doctrines as their Articles, Homilies, and Liturgy fully set forth. Surely, an honest Heathen would blush at such Behaviour. No Wonder such are so much despised and set at naught, who make themselves, by their Absurdity, so contemptible in the Sight of Men.

But, it is farther urged against our *truly* reverend and Gospel-Ministers, "That they are not content with
 " the common and ordinary Operations of the Spirit,
 " but

“ but they talk of, and contend for the extraordinary and “ miraculous Gifts of the Holy Ghost : therefore they are “ *Enthusiasts*.” This is false ; they neither expect, nor see any necessity for the *miraculous* Gifts of the Holy Ghost : But they contend for (agreeable to Scripture) the promised inward Gifts and Graces of the Holy Spirit, to enlighten, convince, convert, and make happy the true Christian, by his indwelling Witness, and comfortable Presence to the Soul.

Neither are their Pretensions to Inspiration “ *ungrounded* “ and *unwarranted*” as others object, and therefore say they are *Enthusiasts*. This kind of Pretension may be reduced to two Sorts, for *Matter*, and for *Manner*. For *Matter*, when Persons pretend to Inspiration of God for Things contrary to Scripture, which God hath given us as a standing Rule to the World’s End. But our Ministers pretend to no such Inspiration, seeing they constantly inculcate the Doctrines of our Church, which are agreeable to the Scriptures : Yea, they preach such Inspiration *only*, which the Word of God promises to every true Christian. Therefore, they are not *Enthusiasts*.

For *Manner*, when Inspirations are expected to exclude and supersede the Use of Reason, Scripture, and all Divine Ordinances. Such as pretend to these are proper *Enthusiasts*. But our faithful and Orthodox Ministers preach the rational Scripture Doctrines of the Gospel *only*. They don’t set up Heathen Morality instead of Christian Practices, nor do they teach Man’s natural Ability, to the Exclusion of God’s divine Grace, nor exalt the Works and Righteousness of sinful Man, in order to supersede and set at Naught the meritorious Sacrifice and Righteousness of *Jesus Christ*. No ; but they insist on the *Reasonableness* of being endued with spiritual Life, and spiritual Power, in order to produce spiritual Actions ; they scripturally teach, that Faith and every other good Gift and Grace, is of the Spirit’s *Inspiration* ; and they therefore direct Souls to a diligent Attendance, and constant Waiting on the Ordinances, and to esteem them as Channels, wherein God is usually pleased to *inspire* into the Soul divine Grace and spiritual Influences : Therefore, they are not *Enthusiasts*.

And now, Reader, by such plain, scriptural and infallible Marks, we may know and discern the true Gospel-Ministers of our Church from *Enthusiasts*, because they assert and preach that true Christianity is wrought in the Soul, by the Infusion and Inspiration of the Spirit *only*, authorized by the Word of God; and, agreeable to the Voice of our Church, they constantly declare, No one can be a Minister of *Christ* without being called to and qualified for the preaching of the Gospel, by the Spirit of *Christ only*. Neither can any Person be a true Christian, but through the animating Power and Agency of the blessed Spirit. For, all godly Ministers and Christians do enjoy this in the Working and Increase of supernatural Grace; For, Grace is not the Work of Nature and Reason, (let heretical *Pelagians* and modern graceless Seducers say what they please) but of the Spirit *only*,

The Gifts and Graces of the Holy Spirit are promised in the Gospel, to be with *Christ's Church* through all the succeeding Ages To what End? But to carry on, effectuate and apply, the Blessings and Comforts of *Christ's Redemption* to the Soul of every Member; to give them an *Earnest of the purchased Inheritance in their Hearts here*, and to qualify and prepare them for the enjoyment of the Kingdom of our Lord *Jesus*, in a blessed Eternity hereafter? This the Word of God assures us of; this every true Christian happily knows by blessed Experience; and this the Church of *England* teaches us constantly to pray for and expect in her Offices and Institutions; yea, in the Communion-Service it is asserted of all her true Members, "We dwell in *Christ*, and *Christ* in us; we are one with *Christ*, and *Christ* with us."

But by *Men of corrupt Minds, destitute of the Truth*, these antient Doctrines of the Bible, and of our Church, now are deemed *New Doctrines*, the Preachers of them railed against as *Innovators*, and from many Pulpits the People are told (by Way of Prejudice against them) that "they draw People away from the Church, and cause Schism and Division." Draw People from the Church, and cause Schism! Might they not with equal propriety call them *Presbyterian Papists*, and say they set the Stone Walls of the Church on fire; for, Nonsense can never be understood;

stood; but the Discerning and Judicious will always reject Absurdity and Falshood. Is it Schism constantly to preach and inculcate the avowed Doctrines and Tenets of the Church? And it is obvious, even to an Offence to some, that at whatever Church the faithful GOSPEL Ministers preach, numerous and crowded Congregations attend. Now, is not this a strange Way of drawing People from the Church, and causing Schism?

“ But then, who are those that follow them? ” Why, perhaps, many of your Parishioners go to hear them. “ Ay, that is it, they draw People away from their own Parish Churches. ” Do they so? Why really, Mr. Parson, Truth is a very desirable Thing, and never more so, than when Religion is concerned. Now the Case is plainly this: When a Person is not content to take up his Religion upon Trust, but reads with Attention and Discernment the Word of God, compares the Doctrines of our Church with the Bible, and observes the great and fundamental Truths therein contained, either not preached at all in his own Parish Church, or, what is worse, openly inveighed against, denied, and exploded—(Such as, the Doctrine of Original Sin, the Insufficiency of Works to justify the Sinner, the Merits and Righteousness of the Lord Jesus, and Justification through the same by Faith; the Necessity of inward Holiness and Sanctification by the Holy Spirit, &c.) I say, when a Person sees the Weight and Importance of these sacred Scripture Truths, it is the very Delight of his Soul to hear them preached; he abides by the Doctrines of the Church of England, not by Profession merely, but through Principle chiefly.

And 'tis easy to be accounted for, that he takes some Pains to follow the Voice of the Church, and to attend the Sound of her Doctrines wherever he can hear it; and even thinks it an Unhappiness he can't hear them preached at his own Parish Church.

Now, Doctor, you say 'tis wrong, and you blame People for rambling away from their own Parish-Churches; but is it not worse in you to forsake your own Church-Doctrines?

'Tis

'Tis true, there are many who forsake the Stone Walls and Buildings of their Parish Churches; but why? For this very Reason, because their own Parish Priests have departed from the constituent Principles and established Doctrines of our Articles, Homilies, Liturgy. And pray now, who is in Fault? Not those Ministers who preach the Doctrines of the Church of *England*, nor those who are so attached to the same as to *follow* them; but those who *drive* them away from their own stated Parish Churches, by preaching contrary to the venerable Scripture-Truths, and cannot be content with the Religion of their *Forefathers*, the Doctrines of the Reformation, but must broach some new-fangled Tenets, and preach only the poor, dry, unavailing System of Heathenish Morality, instead of the lively, animating, powerful, truly-moralizing Truths of the Gospel.

Therefore, let *Clericus*, and his Brethren, who are so often haranguing *against Schism* and Separation, know that the *Schism* reverberates, and the Charge of Separation recoils back upon themselves, while they are guilty of Schism in Doctrine, and *cause Divisions in the Church* by separating from the precious Truths, the avowed Tenets of our excellent Establishment.

But there is one Expedient, which, from my hearty Zeal for our Church, and warm Affection to the Clergy, I would humbly recommend to them (Oh that they may be Influenced to put it in Practice!) It is this, to preach constantly, maintain steadily, inculcate fervently, the established Doctrines of our Church, the glorious Truths of the Reformation. Now, who would think there could be any Objection against this Method? Nay, there can be none; and I am sure it will be practised by those who have so much Conscience, as to believe solemn Promises, Oaths, and Subscriptions, are binding and obligatory upon them.

Moreover, consider, Reverend Sirs, pray consider, that, besides discharging your Consciences in the Sight of God, clearing yourselves from the Imputation of Schism and Disaffection to the Truths of our Establishment, ye may also assure yourselves these happy Effects will be the Consequence of such a Practice. Your respective Flocks will be kept together; they will punctually attend their Ministers at
their

their own Parish-Churches; ignorant Professors will be instructed in the saving Doctrines of the Gospel, from which we may hope the true Members of our Church will be established in *the Truth as it is in Jesus*, and will be thereby preserved from being misled by Error, and perverted by Delusion; a glorious Spirit of Reformation will overspread our Land, the Practice of Morality and good Works will abound, and our Church will soon become *the Glory of the whole Earth*.

O happy Period! A Time how much to be desired! May the God of Truth and Power hasten it, for his Mercy's Sake. *Amen.*



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THIS little Tract was published in *England*, some
years ago; but as it appears equally adapted to the state of
Religion in this country, wherein, also, there are so many
*false Apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into
the Apostles of Christ*, the republication of it was judged ex-
pedient: And as the present Editor received much edifica-
tion from it himself, he humbly trusts that others will derive
the same advantage, and be preserved from the delusive
Principles of those, who, though in *Sheep's cloathing*, are
inwardly *ravening Wolves*.



